

REMARKS

New claims 5-12 have been added to further protect the invention.

Examination of the amended application respectfully is requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings on the basis that at least Fig. 7 should be labeled "PRIOR ART." Suitable replacement drawings for Figs. 7 and 8, containing the legend "PRIOR ART," are submitted herewith. The objection accordingly should be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because the Examiner apparently is confused as to whether the discussion of Figs. 5A-8 relates to prior art, and whether they are the same for both the prior art and the invention with only difference in the control of how the door moves. Figs. 5A-6B illustrate a door structure that is in the prior art, but which is used in the invention along with a novel control system. Fig. 7 illustrates control according to the prior art and Fig. 8 illustrates an operational problem when the structure of the prior art is used with the control of the in the prior art. This is believed adequately to be explained in the specification. Under these circumstances, labeling of the other figures and amendment of the specification are deemed to be unnecessary.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-4 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Shigematsu et al.* The rejection respectfully is traversed.

The claimed invention is directed to a door mechanism of a type in which a

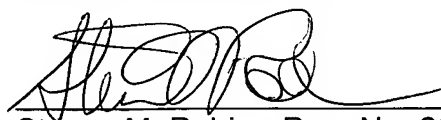
door is opened and closed with the aid of a thrust force applied by a door driving device, and wherein a control device controls a lock device and the door driving device. As noted in the specification, in known door mechanisms of this type a problem may occur during a lock opening procedure, and the mechanism responds by applying an increasing amount of force and energy to open the lock. For example, a lock with a pin 7 and a holding part 6 in the illustrative case disclosed in the specification, a misalignment may cause there to be frictional resistance, requiring additional force from a solenoid 8 to complete the lock opening procedure. The applicant has discovered that the application of additional force and energy in the lock opening procedure may be avoided by any one of several door opening and/or closing procedures involving the application of a thrust by a door driving device while the control device again controls the lock device to perform the unlocking operation, after the passage of a set time during an initial unlocking operation without detection that the lock device is in an open state. The control resulting in the application of such a thrust by the control device of the invention, defines the novel features of the control device of the invention.

Such a door apparatus is deemed clearly not to be disclosed by *Shigematsu et al.* To the contrary, *Shigematsu et al.* is directed to a powered vehicle door closing system. The control aspects of the system described by *Shigematsu et al.* relate only to a process of closing and locking a door, not

unlocking a door as in the claimed invention. According to the claimed invention, under certain circumstances as describe above during the opening of a lock, a thrust force is applied to the door in an opening and/or closing direction while an unlocking procedure is reapplied or continued, whereas *Shigematsu et al.* merely discloses to activate a thrust to close a door only so long as a full latching position of a latch has not been reached in a latching (not unlatching or unlocking) operation. Therefore, *Shigematsu et al.* is deemed clearly not to anticipate the claimed invention as defined in independent claims 1 and 2, and the rejection accordingly should be withdrawn. Similarly, the rejection of the dependent claims 3 and 4 should be withdrawn since these claims include the limitations respectively of claims 1 and 2.

Should any fee be required, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002 and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 21, 2005
Date

SMR/pjl

AMENDMENT

(10/647,117)

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figs. 7 and 8 by the attached replacement drawings in which the legend "PRIOR ART" has been added to each.